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THE USE OF BEDFORD AS A FORMATIONAL NAME

IN a paper about to be published by Professor Charles S. Prosser it will be stated that the "*Bedford shale* was named by Newberry in 1870¹ from outcrops east of Cleveland at which place, he later states, the best exposures occur." It will be further stated that the term "Bedford rock" as used by Owen² for a portion of the Sub-Carboniferous limestone of Indiana was evidently not intended as a formation name.

In the citation of Owen's use of the term Bedford rock lies the basis for the present use of the name Bedford for the Indiana formation. In the later reports of the Indiana Geological Survey, down to the Twenty-first Annual Report, the name Bedford is not applied to these rocks; but in the Fifteenth Annual Report the name Salem rock³ is used, though not as a formation name, and again in the Seventeenth Report, Salem is said to afford the "best exposure for study [of the oölitic limestone] from the geologist's point of view."⁴ In the Fifteenth Report (*loc. cit.*) a section of the Salem Stone and Lime Company's quarry one half mile west of Salem is given as follows:

Soil and rubbish	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 feet
Dark blue, bituminous limestone (bastard)	-						6 "
Gray oölitic quarry stone	-	-	-	-	-	-	30 "
Blue crystalline limestone	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 "
							<hr/>
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	45 feet

The oölitic character of the rock is said to be especially well shown in this section.

Since the term Bedford as the name of a formation is pre-occupied, having been applied to the "Bedford shale" of

¹ Geol. Surv. Ohio, Part I, Rept. Progress in 1869, 1870, p. 21.

² Geol. Recon. Indiana, 1862, p. 137.

³ Ind. Geol. and Nat. Hist., Fifteenth Ann. Rept., p. 143.

⁴ Indiana, Dept. of Geol. and Nat. Resources, Seventeenth Ann. Rept., p. 47.

northeastern Ohio in 1870, the writer proposes the name *Salem limestone* for the rocks called Bedford limestone by Hopkins and Siebenthal.¹ The so-called bastard limestone of the quarrymen is to be considered as the base of the formation next above (Mitchell); and the base of the Salem formation is to be taken at the top of the Bryozoal limestone that throughout its entire extent constitutes the upper zone of the Harrodsburg limestone as defined by Hopkins and Siebenthal.²

In suggesting a different name for the rocks under consideration the writer is aware of the claims of Spergen hill. The latter place is, however, chiefly known as having afforded the extensive series of fossils described by Hall³ and later redescribed and figured by Whitfield,⁴ and is not so good a place for studying the stratigraphic relationships of the formation as a number of other localities. Moreover, the Spergen hill fauna is confined to parts of the formation, and in many localities would be of scarcely any service in identifying it. The oölitic character of the rock, on the other hand, while more pronounced at some places than at others, everywhere serves as a means of identification and is the character that is especially well developed at Salem. Finally, as indicated above, the name Salem has been associated with the oölitic limestones in the Indiana reports since 1885.

EDGAR R. CUMINGS.

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¹ Indiana, Dept. of Geol. and Nat. Resources, Twenty-first Ann. Rept., 1896, p. 298.

² *Ibid.*

³ Trans. Alb. Inst., Vol. IV; Indiana, Dept. Geol. and Nat. Hist., Twelfth Ann. Rept.

⁴ Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. I, No. 3.